

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Kayleen A. Niyo, Editor, 1531 Stone Brooke Road, Ames, IA 50010 (kniyo@aol.com)

Ann Barker, Spring Bird Count Editor, 3204 Crestline Drive, Davenport, IA 52803 (AnnBarker4@aol.com)

Robert I. Cecil, Winter Field Reports Editor, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311 (wewarib@aol.com)

James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Stephen J. Dinsmore, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521 (dinsmore@amar.colostate.edu)

James L. Fuller, Fall Field Reports Editor, 6 Longview Knoll, N.E., Iowa City, IA 52240 (james-fuller@uiowa.edu)

Matthew C. Kenne, Spring Field Reports Editor, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511 (meckeckk@rconnect.com)

FRONT COVER: Dickcissel, Secret Lake, Fremont County, Iowa. Photo by Reid L. Allen.

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Meet an Iowa Birder — Ann Johnson

Robert L. Cecil

Ann could hardly escape being a birder. "I don't remember ever not being involved in birding," she says, adding that she became a lister at age seven. The first bird on her list was at her grandmother's house in southeastern Wisconsin. "Grandma! There's a parrot on the corn crib!" Grandma helped her to identify it as a Pileated Woodpecker. Fostering her interest was her uncle, J. P. Moore, a former president of the IOU, who took her to her first IOU meeting at Ottumwa in the spring of 1961. This was the same year that she joined IOU as a student member (\$1 per year); she has continued her membership since then. Ann recalls reading in her first issue of Iowa Bird Life (Vol. 30[1]) about Whimbrels being seen in Iowa City, a species that she notes she still hasn't seen in Iowa. She also started sending in field reports as "a kid," under her maiden name, Ann Moore. Today, birding continues to enrich her life. Her country home, nestled in woods between Des Moines and Indianola, is perhaps the best place in the state to sit on the back porch with a cup of coffee, watching birds flit through the trees and visit one of several feeders.

Ann was born on 18 July 1949 in Indianola. Her father, a Methodist minister, and her mother, an English teacher, supported her early interest in birds and planned family vacations around her hobby. By the time she completed high school at Lynnville-Sully in Jasper County, she had birded in some of the top birding areas in the United States, including California, Florida, and Ramsey Canyon in Arizona. Ann enjoys relating a story of her senior year in high school when she was class president. As president, it was her responsibility to attend the graduation banquet (there was no dance — dancing was frowned on in this Dutch community) and thank the juniors for their work. Because the IOU meeting was the same weekend, she had to race back home, put on her prom dress, address the class, and then

make it back to the IOU meeting for the next morning's field trips. The only graduation gift she recalls was a *Golden Guide to Birds* which she especially treasured since it covered all the birds in the United States.

In 1970, Ann married Paul Johnson, and the subsequent demands of college, plus parenting their son, Kurt, resulted in an inactive period in her IOU activities. In 1971, she received her B.A. in Sociology from Simpson College in Indianola. She also became involved in bird banding, for which she received her permit in 1973 and remained active throughout the decade. She conducted breeding bird surveys during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

An IOU meeting at nearby Camp Wesley Woods in Ahquabi State Park in 1984 renewed her interest in birding organizations. During this period, she became president of the Rolling Hills Audubon chapter and made the arrangements for IOU meetings in Indianola in the fall of 1991 and in Pella in the fall of 1994. This organizational experience led to her being asked

to serve as IOU vice president in 1995, a position that she held until 1999. She also served on the IOU Board of Directors from 1993 to 1995, and was the IOU field trip coordinator in 1993 and 1994.

A renewed interest in birding also led Ann to some excellent field observations. At the Red Rock Reservoir Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in 1991, Ann spotted a small flycatcher. After she finally was able to identify it as a Least Flycatcher, it became not only the first for an Iowa CBC, but the first Iowa winter record ever of an empidonax species. While birding at Lake Ahquabi State Park on 14 November 1992, she observed an unusual empidonax flycatcher. Unlike the expected species that breed in or pass through Iowa, this bird had a distinctive tear-drop shaped eye ring. Ann's research and documentation led to this being accepted as the first state record of a "western" (either Pacific Slope or Cordilleran) flycatcher in Iowa. Ann's interest in this notoriously difficult group is now reflected in her EMPID license plate. She modestly notes that "Unfortunately, it makes people think I know something about them." She does. From my own experience with Ann in Mexico, she is indispensable when it comes to sorting out tropical flycatchers.



A. Johnson and friends Jim Bangma and Bill Elrick

While Ann has had triumphs in successfully finding and identifying rare Iowa birds, there have been setbacks as well. Watching another of a difficult group, Ann identified a fall Prairie Warbler in her back yard. Due to its rarity, Ann completed a documentation and submitted it for review by the Records Committee. In this review of the record, the committee felt that while the bird may have been correctly identified, there was room for doubt due to possible confusion with similar species. Ann's response was typically magnanimous. She prepared an article for Iowa Bird Life called "The Fine Art of Documentation" that not only gave tips for observing and recording information about rarities, but philosophical support for when a Records Committee rejects your record. Recognizing the insights in the article, it was republished by editors of other state journals. Ann also has contributed numerous other articles to IBL, including "Birding the Red Rock Area," notes on rare birds she has found, and an affectionate "Meet an Iowa Birder" article about her early personal mentor and perhaps most famous of Iowa birders, the late Gladys Black.

More recently, Ann has continued and expanded her service to IOU. Utilizing expertise from her job as Department of Human Services Management Analyst for Technology Services, Ann designed and started a web site for Iowa birders in 1996. This site, hosted by the Simpson College server but not officially sanctioned by the IOU, was replaced in 1999 by the new, official IOU web site www.iowabirds.org, also run by Ann from her home. Recognizing the need for technological expertise as well as her birding skills, the IOU Records Committee also named Ann as secretary in 2000 after having served as a member from 1993 to 1999.

Today, Ann continues to widen her horizons. She has made several trips to various parts of Mexico, and plans more. She periodically participates in New Jersey's World Series of Birding, and is proud of finding the first and only Arctic Tern in this national competition. She is a cofounder of Hologrambirds, whose motto is "Birding should be fun," and has led tours to Arizona, Texas, and Mexico. And, if you catch her on a sunny afternoon flailing a butterfly net, her prey is "odes," or odonates — dragonflies and damselflies — her latest obsession. But whatever you find Ann doing, try to share a few minutes with her. She will not only help you live up to her motto, but you may learn a little about dragonflies, flycatchers, computers, Iowa birding, IOU history . . .

1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA (wewarb@aol.com)

Blue Grosbeaks in Iowa City: With Notes on Iowa Records for this Species

John P. Bollenbacher

GROSBEAKS IN OUR YARD . . . On the morning of 31 May 2000 at about 9:00 as I was sitting at my dining table, I noticed a dark blue bird sitting at the end of a branch in our nearby spruce tree about 15 feet from the window. My first reaction was to call it a Blue Grosbeak even though I had never actually seen one before. I immediately noticed its heavy grosbeak/bunting type bill, the very obvious black patch from its bill to under the eye, and the wings that looked quite black and had no discernible chestnut patch or buff wingbars, much like the photograph in the Audubon guide (Bull and Farrand 1984).

I learned later (Dinsmore et al. 1984; DuMont 1933) that there are two subspecies of this bird. Based on the description in *The Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas* (Jackson et al. 1996), I think it was *Guiraca caerulea caerulea*, which is the subspecies thought to occur in eastern Iowa.

I called my partner Michael in from the living room and he and I watched the bird for about five minutes while I checked Peterson's guide (Peterson 1980) to confirm my identification. Although it was cloudy and the light was not very good, we had a great view of the bird, both with and without binoculars. After about five minutes, he flew into a patch of tall grass on the east side of our yard and started eating grass seeds. Soon he was joined by a female, presumably his mate. They flew off about 10:00 a.m., fluttering around in the trees at the edge of our yard.

I thought about taking a picture of the bird because it was so close to my window, but to do so would have meant opening the window so I would not have to photograph through glass. I was afraid the noise would cause the bird to leave.

I saw the male again about 7 p.m. that evening flitting around in the trees on the edge of our yard. I didn't see either bird after that, but I believe I heard the male singing from near the top of a tree just west of our property on the ravine edge of the neighbor's yard.

BLUE GROSBEAKS IN WESTERN IOWA

This species is a later addition to the "Iowa Bird List." The first recorded sighting was by G. O. Hendrickson at Cedar Falls in Black Hawk County during June of 1923 (DuMont 1933). The next record is from Dr. F. L. R. Roberts at Spirit Lake in Dickinson County on 18 May 1924.

The next western Iowa sightings, recorded by William Youngworth (DuMont 1933), were of a male east of Sioux City in Woodbury County on 25 July 1932, and another five miles northwest of there in Plymouth County. He collected a male specimen there in 1934 at an unknown location. He found a pair on 27 May 1946 (Youngworth 1946) and four at the same site on 27 May 1954 (Youngworth 1954). That same year, Youngworth found Blue Grosbeaks in Crawford, Fremont, Harrison, Lyon, Monona, Page, Plymouth, Pottawattamie, Shelby, Taylor, and Woodbury counties during a driving survey of the area (Youngworth 1954).

On 11 August 1955, Youngworth decided to explore the ghost town of Piero in Woodbury County. This trip, as he wrote, "would climax all my Blue Grosbeak records for this area in a single day" (Youngworth 1955). Just past Bronson, he passed two singing males within a couple hundred yards of each other. Shortly after that, when a pair flew in front of his car, he thought he may have found a nesting colony. A mile south of Piero he found a female, a mile north of Smithfield another male, near Kennebee another male, and, near Turin, a final male: a total of eight individuals.

The established range of this species within Iowa now consists a block of western counties, the Western Block, which includes the counties of Carroll (nesting [N]), Cass, Cherokee (N), Crawford, Dickinson, Fremont, Harrison (N), Ida, Lyon (N), Mills (N), Monona, O'Brien (N), Osceola, Page, Plymouth (N), Pottawattamie (N), Shelby, Sioux (N), Taylor, and Woodbury (N). This is an extended range since 1984. In *Iowa Birds* (Dinsmore et al. 1984), the Blue Grosbeaks' normal range was limited to the western tier of counties, with scattered records from 21 other counties. (Compare the maps in Dinsmore et al. 1984 and Kent and Dinsmore 1996).

Throughout the years, this species has been well documented in the Western Block area, so a detailed examination of those records would seem unnecessary. For a detailed summary of these records through 1953, see Grant's article (1955).

In *Iowa Bird Life*, however, I found the following records for western counties outside the Western Block: Audubon (IBL 69[3]); Clay, 6 June 1998, 1 male, 26 June 1998, 2 males; Greene (IBL 69[3]); Pocahontas 13 May 1981, 1 at Laurens; and Sac (IBL 69[3] 1999).

BLUE GROSBEAKS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN IOWA

According to the authors of *Iowa Birds*, the known summer range of this species consisted of the westernmost tier of Iowa counties — Fremont, Harrison, Lyon, Mills, Monona, Plymouth, Pottawattamie, Sioux, and Woodbury counties — with nesting records in Carroll and Polk counties; spring migrant records in Allamakee, Appanoose, Black Hawk, Dubuque, Jones, Lee, Lucas, Marion, Page, Pocahontas, Scott, Worth, and Wright counties; additional summer records in Black Hawk, Johnson, Lee, Linn, Marion, and Osceola counties; and fall records in Cherokee, Dickinson, Linn, Page, and Webster counties (Dinsmore et al. 1984).

By the time Kent and Dinsmore published *Birds in Iowa* in 1996, the known summer range of the Blue Grosbeak in Iowa was considered to include the above counties plus 11 additional western counties, namely, Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Crawford, Dickinson, Ida, O'Brien, Osceola, Page, Shelby, and Taylor. In addition, Kent and Dinsmore (1996) show summer (June/July) records from the following central and eastern Iowa counties: Black Hawk, Dubuque, Hamilton, Hancock, Johnson, Lee (N), Lynn, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Muscatine, Polk (N), Powashiek, Van Buren, and Winnebago. It also notes additional migrant records from Cerro Gordo and Wapello counties.

For my purposes, I examined records from counties within central and eastern Iowa.

The first nonwestern Iowa record for the Blue Grosbeak, which also is the first state record for this species, is G. O. Hendrickson's sighting in June 1923 at Cedar Falls in Black Hawk County (DuMont 1933). But no details are provided for this record in DuMont's publication.

The next eastern records were provided by Mrs. R. W. Johnson of

Dubuque. She reported sightings of Blue Grosbeaks, which she called "the phantom of the Bird Club, now visible, then invisible," on 24 May 1929, 17 May 1931, and 14 May 1933 (Johnson 1937).

The next published report of the Blue Grosbeak in Dubuque County came from Edward Heuser. He found a single individual "perched like an ornament on the top of the flag pole," on a wooded hill overlooking the Mississippi (Heuser 1955).

That same summer, Albert Berkowitz found a nesting pair near the Des Moines airport in Polk County. They were first discovered 6 June 1955 and were seen regularly until 10 August. The nesting apparently was unsuccessful; no eggs or young were ever seen (Berkowitz 1956).

I also found the following published records (alphabetically by county).

One was sighted in Cedar Falls in Blackhawk County on 7 May 1986, which is the second earliest date on record.

There is one record for Boone County from the summer of 1999, a recent sighting of a pair by Karl Jungbluth on 18–22 May 2000, a male on 3 July 2000, and the same pair was seen carrying food to a nest on 10–20 July 2000 near Boone.

There is a record of one in Hamilton County and one at Webster City on 16 June 1993. One was sighted at Pilot Knob State Park in Hancock County on 20 June 1989. One male was seen near Iowa City in Johnson County on 5 June 1976, which was "apparently a first for the area, and one of a handful on record for E. Iowa" (Hamli 1976), and one at Hickory Hill Park in Iowa City on 9 May 1985 (third earliest date on record).

There are many records in Lee County: one on 1 June 1979 (no location given), one at Shimek Forest on 29 May 1981, 30 June 1984, and a single male on 7 June 1985. On 4 July 1986, a male was seen carrying food to a nest site, which "seemed to confirm nesting for that corner of Iowa" (Dinsmore 1986). Three individuals were seen there 1 August 1986, and two were still present on 10 August. On 28 June 1987, another nest was found at Shimek Forest near Argyle, "confirming nesting in southeast Iowa for the second year in a row" (Dinsmore 1987). There is another record of unspecified location on 7 July 1989. In the summer of 1992, Dinsmore (1992a) reported as many as three were seen in Shimek State Forest. On 15 May 1993, a pair was found near Turkey Run Access in Lee County.

For Linn County there are three records: one each on 11 May 1942 and 8 October 1975 in Cedar Rapids, and one in early June of

1977 in the Cedar Rapids area. The only record for Marion County is a pair that were seen at Red Rock on 7 June 1971 and two more times in June. In Marshall County, one was sighted north of Liscomb on 11 June 1993. In Muscatine County, one male was seen on 4 July 1988 and another single bird on the same date in 1993, both at Big Sand Mound Preserve. In Scott County, one was sighted on 13 May 1995 west of Buffalo, and two were reported in that year's spring bird count.

In Van Buren County, there is one record for 21 May 1989, two in July 1989 and, most recently, a pair were found at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park on the 11 June 2000 (Rare Bird Alert 6/14/00). There is a single record on 18 May 1956 near Agency in Wapello County. In Washington County, the only report was of two males that came to a feeder at Wellner on 10 May 1996. The only record for Worth County was a flock of 16 at Northwood on 20 May 1962. Finally, for Wright County, there is a record of two at Rowan on 17 May 1962.

COMMENTS

Of all the regular species of birds occurring in Iowa, the Blue Grosbeak is one of the least well known. This is due largely to its rarity in Iowa. It is, however, a poorly known species overall.

I have been able to locate only one extensive study of the species (Ingold 1993). But Ingold only mentions Iowa in passing (page 9). His range map (Figure 1, page 1) does not seem to include Iowa, and his relative abundance map (Figure 5, page 9) shows the species confined to western Iowa, in an area forming an arc from roughly Pottawattamie to Dickinson counties.

As I have indicated, however, the species is fairly well established in Iowa. The species was added to the Iowa checklist as Western Blue Grosbeak in 1943. It was considered to have been reported a sufficient number of times to justify its addition (Grant 1943). In 1982, the Records Committee upgraded the status of the Blue Grosbeak from Regular I-P (represented only by a photograph) to Regular I-S-N (a species for which a specimen exists that has a confirmed nesting record) after a male specimen, found dead near Silver City in Mills County on 3 July 1980, had been added to the Iowa State University Collection (Specimen No. 1746; Dinsmore 1992b). There also was a confirmed record of an active nest found east of Akron in Plymouth County on 2 August 1964 (Ennis 1964).

Data collected for *The Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas* from 1985 to 1990 confirmed Blue Grosbeaks nesting in Harrison, Lee, Lyon, Mills, and Plymouth counties. Probable nesting sites were found in Cherokee, Crawford, Fremont, Ida, Monona, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury counties, as well as possible nesting sites in Hancock, O'Brien, Osceola, Poweshiek, Shelby, Sioux, and Taylor counties and sightings of the species in Appanoose County (Jackson et al. 1996).

Carol A. Thompson, who wrote the entry for the Blue Grosbeak in the atlas, commented that this species seems to be expanding its range in Iowa. She wrote "Current agricultural practices and new emphasis on roadside vegetation management may create the types of vegetation that this species favors. Although Iowa is on the edge of this species' range, the population may well continue to expand, particularly in southern Iowa" (Jackson et al. 1996, p. 353).

It seems obvious that this is a species in need of further scrutiny. Iowa birders should familiarize themselves with the appearance of the Blue Grosbeak, and how to distinguish it from the somewhat similar Indigo Bunting (see Kaufman 1989). Hopefully, with effort, the true range and habits of this species in Iowa will become better known.

The records I have discussed in this article are those that I could find in the volumes of the *Iowa Bird Life*, Dinsmore et al. (1984), Kent and Dinsmore (1996), and Jackson et al. (1996). Although I searched these sources carefully, some records may be missing because I did not see them or they were published elsewhere. I apologize for any omissions, but I hope the information I have assembled will provide a clearer picture of this rare and little known bird in Iowa.

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440 Kimball Road, Iowa City, IA 52245 (konchog@hotmail.com)

Field Reports — Spring 2000

Matthew C. Kenne

WEATHER

Following record warmth at the end of February, March was the 6th warmest and 24th driest on record. Temperatures averaged over 20 degrees above normal from the 5th through the 8th. April's temperatures see-sawed from above to below normal every two to three days, usually accompanied by strong winds. A high of 89 degrees in western Iowa on the 5th was followed two days later by heavy snowfall in the northwest. Precipitation was below normal in all but portions of eastern Iowa. The year's first 90-degree temperature was recorded at Sioux City on 5 May, and the temperature rose to 98 degrees at Shenandoah on the 11th. There were four more days in the 90s in parts of Iowa by the end of the month. A much wetter weather pattern began on 17 May with northern and eastern Iowa ending the month with above normal precipitation. Precipitation in much of the southern two-thirds of Iowa is still more than 10 inches below normal since late last summer. This ranks as the 8th warmest and 19th driest spring on record.



M. Kenne

GENERAL TRENDS

Widespread movement of water-related birds was well underway before the beginning of March due to warm weather. Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks bypassed the state, and the usual gatherings of large gulls and diving ducks were not present on the Mississippi River or at the reservoirs. It also is tempting to attribute the presence of Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, and Anhinga to the "southern" weather, but who knows?

Shorebirding was a hit this spring. Their early influx was evident with record-early reports of several species in early March on the Birdline. The drought conditions caused lakes and marshes across the state to host a wide variety of species in May, although large concentrations were not reported.

In contrast, fine weather hampered birders' abilities to view the passerine migration in May. Early leaf-out coupled with great migration conditions for the birds caused many birders to wonder "Where are the warblers?" The only fallout reported was in western Iowa on 19 May with 21 warbler species at Algona and Pete Ernzen describing the warblers in Moorehead Park in Ida Grove as "dripping from the trees." Mark Proescholdt's comment was more typical, "Warblers were hard to find in any numbers this spring!"

Jim Dinsmore noted that alfalfa fields were being cut across the state in early May, before grassland birds could even start nesting.

SPECIES DATA

ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental species

(* = documented) (List = IABirds Listserv) (Birdline = IOU Birdline)

Red-throated Loon: All: 1 on 9 Apr at Trumbull L. (*LAS), and 1 on 12 Apr at Little Wall L. (*MPr, mob).

Pacific Loon: 1 in basic plumage from May 29–31 at Hallett's Quarry in Ames (*JJD, mob) [record latest].

Common Loon: First: 2 on 25 Mar at Little Wall L. (MPr). There were 8 mid-to-late May migrants, the last 2 found at Ames on 31 May while searching for the Pacific Loon (JSn, m.ob.).

Pied-billed Grebe: First: singles in Story and Appanoose counties on 5 and 6 March (Wolfgang Oesterreich fide HZ, TNJ). The peak reports were from 19 and 21 Apr with 84 at Hallett's Quarry and 78 in Johnson Co. (HZ, MCD).

Horned Grebe: Reported from 26 Mar in Mahaska and Monona counties (PHA, RIA, PE-List), with peak numbers 21–22 Apr. Most reported: 18 at Little Wall L. on 21 Apr (PHA, RIA).

Red-necked Grebe: All: 2 on 12 Apr at Little Wall L. (MPr, mob), and 1 at Clear L. on 22 Apr (PBy-List)

Eared Grebe: First: 25 Mar in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Last: 24 May at Little Wall L. (MPr). Only 4 other reports of 1–3 birds were received.

Western Grebe: All: 2 on 21 and 29 Apr at Trumbull L. (LAS), 2 on 21 Apr at Lost Island L. (LAS), singles on 23 Apr at Saylorville Res. (BE), 2 May in Emmet Co. (LAS), 24 Apr at Saylorville Res. (PHA, RIA), and 13 May at Hawarden (JV).

American White Pelican: First: 4 at Rathbun Res. on 4 Mar (RLC) and 400 at Forney L. on 5 Mar (BKP, LJP). The flock at Forney L. was also the largest number reported.

Double-crested Cormorant: First: 25 Mar at Little Wall L. (MPr). Most reported: 500 at L. Manawa on 18 Apr (BKP, LJP).

ANHINGA: 1 on 14 May at Dudgeon L. is Iowa's third record (*FLM).

American Bittern: All: 1 on 5 Apr at Hawarden (JV), 1 at Colo Ponds on 9 Apr (HZ), 1 at Cardinal M. on 10 Apr (Birdline), 1 at Otter Creek M. on 15 pr (MCD), and 1 in Poweshiek Co. on 4 May (MPr).

Least Bittern: All: 1 at Cone M. on 10 May (CE), and 1 at Green Island on 20 May (MCD).

Great Egret: First: 26 Mar at Forney L. (BKP, LJP) and Cone M. (Birdline). Most reported: 38 at Brown's L. on 13 Apr (JJ).

- Snowy Egret:** All: 1 on 10 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF, THK), and 1 on 20 May at Secret L. (PHA, RIA).
- Little Blue Heron:** 8 reports. First: 2 on 17 Apr at Otter Creek M. (MPr) and 1 at Mason City (CJF, mob). Last and westernmost: 15 May at Long Pond in Guthrie Co. (PHA, RIA). The birds at Otter Creek and Long Pond were described as "whitish" and "calico."
- TRICOLORED HERON:** Iowa's third Tricolored Heron was found at Cardinal M. by Bob Chapman, Jr. on 27 Apr. It was seen by many until 2 May (DeC-details, *JLF, RIA-photo).
- Cattle Egret:** All: 1 on 4 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH), and 1 on 13 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF, THK).
- Green Heron:** First: 21 Apr at Cone M. (CE).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** First and most: 5 on 2 Apr at Smith L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK). There were 5 other reports of 1-4 birds, the last on 25 May at Cardinal M. (DeC).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** All: 1 on 8 May near Burlington (Birdline), 2 on 9 May in Appanoose Co. (TNJ), 1 at Ames on 14 May (Erv Klaas fide JJD), and 2-3 near Toolesboro 21-31 May (MCD, PHA, RIA).
- Ibis species:** 20 on 20 Apr in Woodbury Co. (*JJ).
- White-faced Ibis:** All: 1 on 21 Apr in Fremont Co. (Birdline), 1 on 3-4 May at Zirbel Slough (*CJF-photo, RGo, PH), 3 on 13 May in Woodbury Co. (BL-List), and another in Cerro Gordo Co. on 14 May (PH).
- Turkey Vulture:** First: 1 Mar at Ames, and 1 in Hardin Co. on 3 Mar (Wolfgang Oesterreich fide HZ, MPr). Karl Jungbluth found 32 roosting in one tree in Ledges S.P. on 30 May.
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** Widely reported from across the state 4 Mar to 29 Mar in peak flocks of 140-500. Two stragglers were still at Colo Ponds on 21 May (HZ).
- Snow Goose:** First and most: 4,000 on 1 Mar at Dunbar Slough (PJW). One was still present in Cerro Gordo Co. on 31 May (PH).
- Ross's Goose:** 6 reports of 1-10 birds from the eastern half of the state in Mar. The only reports from western regions were 7 in Calhoun Co. on 8 Mar (MPr) and 4 on 29 Apr in Clay Co. (LAS).
- Mute Swan:** 2 adults at Dudgeon L. on 7 May (MPr).
- WHOOPER SWAN:** 1 seen by many in Lee Co. in early Mar was probably raised in captivity.
- Trumpeter Swan:** 1 with captive releases at Kettleson W.A. in Apr and May was considered wild (DCH).
- Tundra Swan:** First: 4 on 4 Mar at Cone M. (CE). Most reported: a flock of 27 that spent two weeks at West Hottes L. (ETH-List).
- Gadwall:** Most reported: 1,200 on 22 Mar in Woodbury Co. (BFH).
- American Black Duck:** 5 on 4 and 22 Mar at Cone M. (CE, MPr), and 2 on 16 Mar in Worth Co. (CJF).
- Blue-winged Teal:** Single hybrid drakes, or possibly the same individual, at Zirbel Slough on 30 Mar and at Algona on 7 May showed the white head stripe of a drake Garganey (PH, MCK).
- Cinnamon Teal:** Singles, presumably all drakes, reported from Green Island on 18 Mar (CLW), Monona Co. on 26 Mar (PE-List), and Lakin Slough on 9 Apr (Birdline).
- Redhead:** Most reported: 153 on 25 Mar at Spirit L. (LAS).
- Ring-necked Duck:** 2 were still in Palo Alto Co. on 30 May (LAS).
- Greater Scaup:** 1-3 were reported from 18 Mar to 13 May in Appanoose, Johnson, Dickinson, Hamilton, and Sioux counties.
- Lesser Scaup:** Most reported: 3,500 on 25 Mar at Spirit L. (LAS).
- Bufflehead:** Most reported: 185 on 1 Apr at Rathbun Res. (RLC).
- Hooded Merganser:** First: 11 at Otter Creek M. on 2 Mar (MPr).
- Common Merganser:** Most reported: 50 in Buena Vista Co. on 1 Mar (PJW).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** First: 1 Mar at Little Wall L. (MPr). Last: 28 May at Spirit L. (LAS). Most reported: 175 on 1 Apr at Saylorsville Res. (BE).

Ruddy Duck: Most reported: 120 in Emmet Co. on 2 May (LAS).

Osprey: First: 6 Apr in Mills Co. (BKP, LJP). Last: singles in Boone and Van Buren counties on 29 May (KJ, PBy-List)

Mississippi Kite: All: 1 adult on 11 May at Hickory Hill P. (JPB-details), 1 in Johnson Co. on 13 May may have been the same individual (Birdline), and 1 returned to Des Moines on 29 May (PJW).

Northern Harrier: 2 nests were found at Hayden Prairie on 19 May (Bob Chapman Jr. fide DeC), and 1 female was harassing Prairie Chickens at Kellerton W.A. on 28 May (JSi).

Cooper's Hawk: A pair reused last year's nest structure at Woodland Mounds Pres. (JSi).

Northern Goshawk: No reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 at Brushy Creek on 1 Mar may have overwintered (MPr), but 1 on 29 Apr in O'Brien Co. was definitely a migrant (LAS).

Broad-winged Hawk: Peak numbers of 20 to "dozens" on 19 Apr spanned the state (Dorothy Wilcox fide MPr, CRF-List, JV). Late immature migrants were noted 29–30 May from Clay, Polk, and Boone counties.

Swainson's Hawk: First: 2 E of Peterson on 3 Apr (Birdline), singles were found 21 Apr in Guthrie Co. (MPr), 10 May at Harrier M. (MPr), and 16 May near Cresco (DeC).

Red-tailed Hawk: 1 Harlan's type 12 Mar at Ledges S.P. (KJ).

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 at Brushy Creek on 25 Mar was the only report (MPr).

Golden Eagle: 1 immature on 1 Mar near Bernard (CLW).

American Kestrel: Peak migration noted 19–22 Apr, with 10/mile counted in Pocahontas Co. (JV), 8/mile counted in western Iowa (JJ), and 55 counted in central Iowa (MPr).

Merlin: All: 1 on 23 Apr in Warren Co. (JSi), and 1 on 29 Apr in Palo Alto Co. (LAS).

Peregrine Falcon: 4 were sighted from Story Co. to Sioux Co. on 19 Apr (JJ). The Padelfords were able to count 3 leg bands on 1 at the MidAmerican Ponds on 11 May. Only a few singles were reported with all the shorebirds in May.

Prairie Falcon: No reports.

Gray Partridge: Seen as far south as Hardin Co. (MPr). Numbers appear to be increasing, with Doug Harr reporting the most in NW Iowa since the 1980s.

Ruffed Grouse: No reports. The lack of birds at the spring IOU meeting at Strawberry Point showed just how scarce they are at this time.

Greater Prairie Chicken: 5 were still on the lek at Kellerton W.A. on 28 May (JSi).

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE: 2, and eventually only 1, DNR-stocked birds were seen on the lek in Woodbury Co. (Roger Hill fide JJD).

Northern Bobwhite: 1 singing in Buchanan Co. was somewhat north of their usual range (JJD).

Yellow Rail: No reports. Not too surprising during a dry spring.

King Rail: No reports.

Virginia Rail: Singles on 10 May at Cone M. (CE) and 13 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC) were outside their nesting range.

Sora: First: 22 Apr at Muskrat Slough (MCD). The most reported: 10 on 13 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Common Moorhen: 1 on 8 May at Redbird Farms W.A. in Johnson Co. was the only report (CE).

American Coot: The most were counted in eastern Iowa with 800 at Cardinal M. on 6 Apr (DeC) and 1,000 in Van Buren Co. on 18 Apr (DCP).

Sandhill Crane: Consolidating their position in the eastern half of the state with 10 sightings of 1–3 birds, many possibly nesting. An article in the Marshalltown Times-Republican on 15 Apr stated 23 cranes returned to Otter Creek M. this spring.

Black-bellied Plover: First: 2 on 2 May near L. Park (DCH). Last: 2 on 25 May at MidAmerican Ponds (BKP, LJP). The most reported: 7 at Colo Ponds on 14 May (HZ).

American Golden-Plover: First: 150 at Forney L. on 25 Mar (BKP, LJP). By far, the most reported: 1,140 near L. Park on 2 May (DCH).

SNOWY PLOVER: 1 on 6 May in Appanoose Co. (*TNJ, *RLC).

Semipalmated Plover: First: 16 Apr in Fremont Co. (BKP, LJP). Last: 26 May at Sweet M. (TS). Most reported: 14 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 7 May (MCK).

Piping Plover: All: 6 on 18 Apr at Port Neal (BFH), 12 on 11 May with 5 nests on the north side of MidAmerican Ponds (BKP, LJP), 3 on 25 May with 1 nest on the south side of MidAmerican Ponds (BKP, LJP).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: 1 on 14 and 15 Apr at Cone M. (*PHA, RIA-photo, *THK., *CE).

American Avocet: 7 reports of 1–8 birds from 10 Apr until 26 May. Most reported: 28 on 22 Apr at Rathbun Res. (TNJ).

Greater Yellowlegs: First: 5 Mar at Forney L. (BKP, LJP) [record earliest]. Last: 25 May at Hendrickson M. (JJD).

Lesser Yellowlegs: First: 8 Mar at Union Sough N.W.R. (MCK) [third earliest]. Most reported: 130 at that location on 23 Apr (MCK).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: 17 Apr in Jefferson Co. (DKi).

Willet: First: 22 Apr in Calhoun Co. (MPR). Last: 23 May at Rathbun Res. (RLC). Most reported: 10 at Cardinal M. on 4 May (DeC).

Spotted Sandpiper: First: 14 Apr at Cone M. (THK) [second earliest].

Upland Sandpiper: First: 2 on 21 Apr at Harrier M. (JJD) and 1 on 22 Apr in Iowa Co. (CE).

Hudsonian Godwit: Every wet spot seemed to have a few. First: 19 Apr at Cone M. (CRF-List). Last: 26 May at Sweet M. (TS-List). 198 were reported on 22 Apr at Riverton (Birdline), but other flocks numbered up to 47 at Dunbar Slough on 25 May (PHA, RIA).

Marbled Godwit: All: 1 on 9 Apr at Trumbull L. (LAS), 21 on 15 Apr in Palo Alto Co. (JJD), 2 on 21 Apr in Greene Co. (MPR), and 30 on 30 May in Hardin Co. (MPR-details) [third latest]. The late birds were all similar in appearance although the cinnamon underwing linings were only noted on some of the standing birds.

Ruddy Turnstone: Reported from 5 locations in mid-May, the most reported: 13 at Rathbun Res. on 23 May (TNJ).

Sanderling: First: 8 May at Cardinal M. (Bob Chapman Jr. fide DeC). Last: 31 May at Colo Ponds (PBy-List). Most reported: 9 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 14 May (PH).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Most reported: 80 at Colo Ponds on 31 May (HZ).

Least Sandpiper: First: 26 Mar in Monona Co. (PE-List). Most reported: 75 on 7 May at Colo Ponds (HZ).

White-rumped Sandpiper: First: 3 in Appanoose Co. on 6 May (RLC), and 6 at L. Manawa on 8 May (BKP, LJP).

Baird's Sandpiper: First: 5 on 29 Mar at Dunbar Slough (PHA, RIA). Most reported: 13 at Colo Ponds on 13 May (HZ).

Pectoral Sandpiper: First: 12 Mar at Cone M. (MCD). Most reported: 220 at Riverton on 30 Apr (BKP, LJP).

Dunlin: Widely reported in May. Most reported: 50 on 25 May at Cardinal M. (DeC).

Stilt Sandpiper: Last: 4 on 25 May at Secret Pond in Fremont Co. (BKP, LJP).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 2 on 13 May at Port Neal was the only report (Jerry Probst fide BFH).

Short-billed Dowitcher: First: 9 on 9 May in Johnson Co. (MCD). Most reported: 26 at Cardinal M. on 16 May (DeC).

Long-billed Dowitcher: First: 2 on 23 Apr at Harrier M. (JJD). Last: 4 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Common Snipe: First and most reported: 82 on 20 Mar at Muskrat Slough (MCD).

American Woodcock: 7 Mar reports. Most reported: 5 at Mason City on 10 Mar (Rgo). A nest with 3 eggs was found 30 Mar at Waterman Creek (DCH).

Wilson's Phalarope: Another colorful shorebird widely reported. First: 25 Apr in Hardin Co. (MPR). Most reported: 16 at Long Pond on 25 May (RLC). Last straggler (or possible nester?): 30 May at Coralville Res. (MCD).

Red-necked Phalarope: Also everywhere in May. 1–4 reported from a dozen locations until 2 on 30 May at Coralville Res. (MCD).

Franklin's Gull: Most reported, but surely not the peak: 55 on 27 May at MidAmerican Ponds (BKP, LJP).

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 29 Mar in Polk Co. (PHA, RIA) and 2 on 31 Mar in Johnson Co. (MCD). Most reported: 208 on 16 Apr at Saylorville Res. (BE).

MEW GULL: 1 second-winter on 12 Mar at Smith's Slough (*LAS).

Ring-billed Gull: First and most reported: 3,100 on 11 Mar at L. Macbride (MCD).

Thayer's Gull: All: 1 first-year on 19 and 25 Mar in Dickinson Co. (LAS)., 1 first-year on 11 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH-details, RGo) [second latest].

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 adult on 11 Mar near Burlington (CRF-List).

Caspian Tern: First: 12 Apr at Little Wall L. (MPR, mob) [record earliest]. Last: 30 May at Coralville Res. (MCD). Most reported: 52 on 18 May at Saylorville Re. (JJD).

Common Tern: 2 on 29 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Forster's Tern: First: 10 Apr in Poweshiek Co. (MPR) [ties third earliest]. Most reported: 28 at Trumbull L. on 21 Apr (LAS).

Least Tern: All: 2 on 16 May at Port Neal (BFH), 1 on 25 May and 3 on 27 May at MidAmerican Ponds (BKP, LJP).

Black Tern: First: 6 May at Harrier M. (KJ). Migration peaked with 1,000 in central Iowa on 11 May (PJW-List) and 5,000 in Dickinson Co. on 16 May (PH).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: New locations include a late report of 6 at Rutland in fall and winter 1999 (*JSm) and up to 8 at Montgomery since Sep 1999 (*LAS).

Black-billed Cuckoo: 6 singles reported, with the first on 7 May at Dudgeon L. (MPR).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: First: 3 on 6 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Barn Owl: No reports.

Snowy Owl: 1 on 1-4 Mar at Dunbar Slough (PJW, PHA, RIA-photo, mob).

Long-eared Owl: All: 2 on 26-29 Mar at Dunbar Slough (EuA fide PHA, RIA), 1 on 31 Mar in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Short-eared Owl: All: 1 on 16 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH, RGo), 1 on 9 May in Guthrie Co. (Peter Neubeck fide CJF), and 1 on 13 May in Jefferson Co. (DKi).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 1 on 9 Mar in George Wyth S.P. (TS-List), 1 on 1 and 8 Apr at Walnut Woods S. P. (Birdline).

Common Nighthawk: First: 18 Apr at Iowa City (MCD) and 2 at Ames (Donna Flanagan fide HZ) [record earliest].

Chuck-will's-widow: Probably present in Fremont Co., but nobody reported them.

Whip-poor-will: First: 19 Apr in Boone Co. (KJ).

Chimney Swift: First: 27 Apr in Fairfield and Sioux Center (DKi, JV). 515 were counted entering a roost at Spencer on 22 May (LAS).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: First: 1 May at Fairfield (DCP).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Mark Proescholdt's first of the year wasn't seen until 26 April in Polk Co.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Migrants were noted moving through Oak Grove P. on 8 Apr (JV).

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 at Woodland Mounds Pres. on 16 Apr were not relocated (JSi). 2 at Algona on 21 Mar and 1 at Call S.P. on 31 May (MCK), along with 1 at Dolliver S.P. on 13 May (MPR), indicate this species' continued presence along the upper reaches of the Des Moines R.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First: 1 May at Hickory Hill P. (JLF). Last: 31 May at Algona and 2 at Huxley (MCK, PBy-List).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: First: 4 on 6 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First: 12 May at Algona (MCK). Last: 31 May at Call S.P. and at Huxley (MCK, PBy-List). Most reported: 8 on 19 May at Call S.P. (MCK).

Acadian Flycatcher: First: 6 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Alder Flycatcher: First: 14 May at Walnut Woods S.P. (AMJ). Last: 2 at Algona and 1 at Marshalltown on 31 May (MCK, MPR).

Willow Flycatcher: First: 13 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Least Flycatcher: First: 30 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Last: 31 May at Algona (MCK).

Great Crested Flycatcher: First: 21 Apr at Cone M. (CE) [ties earliest].

- Western Kingbird:** First: 2 on 11 May in Ida Co. (PE-List). Also reported from Fremont, Pottawattamie, and Sioux counties. One on 12 May at Deception Hollow in Webster Co. was outside normal range (MPr).
- Eastern Kingbird:** First: 22 Apr in Appanoose Co. (TNJ).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** First, and a bit early for the north: 1 at Brushy Creek on 1 Mar (MPr).
- North Shrike:** All: 1 Mar at Cardinal M. (DeC), and 1 on 9 Mar at Ames (Wolfgang Oesterreich fide HZ).
- White-eyed Vireo:** First: 25 Apr at Starr's Cave (JR-List). Single migrants found in Appanoose Co. on 6 May (TNJ), and near Huxley on 22 May (PBy-List).
- Bell's Vireo:** Reported from Louisa, Polk, Johnson, Muscatine, Dallas, Winneshiek, and Fremont counties.
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** First: 26 Apr at Sunken Grove (PHA, RIA).
- Blue-headed Vireo:** First: 19 Apr at Rush L. in Osceola Co. (JV) [record earliest]. Last: singles on 19 May at Call S.P. (MCK) and Cardinal M. (DeC).
- Warbling Vireo:** First: singles on 23 Apr at Cedar Rapids (MCD) and Runnells (JSi) [ties earliest].
- Philadelphia Vireo:** 5 reported from 13 to 20 May.
- Red-eyed Vireo:** First: 1 May in Muscatine Co. (MCD).
- BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE:** 22 May at Broken Kettle Grassland in Plymouth Co. (Scott Moats fide JJD).
- COMMON RAVEN:** A report will be reviewed by the Records Committee.
- Purple Martin:** First: 1 male on 31 Mar at Pike's Peak S.P. (MCK). No large numbers reported.
- Tree Swallow:** First: 23 Mar in Johnson Co (MCD), and 25 Mar in Jefferson and Fremont counties (DKi, BKP, LJP).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** First: 2 on 15 Apr in Webster Co. (MPr).
- Bank Swallow:** First: 2 on 20 Apr in Poweshiek Co. (MPr).
- Barn Swallow:** First: 13 Apr in Boone Co. (KJ).
- Tufted Titmouse:** 28 Apr at Smith W.A. is the first recent Kossuth Co. record.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Scattered singles around the state until 23 May at Mason City (CJF).
- Brown Creeper:** 2 along the Des Moines R. at Algona on 30 May probably nested.
- Carolina Wren:** 2 at Sand Creek W.M.A. in Decatur Co. on 6 May (RIC) could be nesting, while 1 at Ames on 15 Mar (Dave Edwards fide HZ) was the most northerly report.
- Bewick's Wren:** 21 Apr at Iowa City (JBP-details) and 5 May in Madison Co. (EuA, EIA-Birdline).
- House Wren:** First: 15 Apr at Cone M. (CE).
- Winter Wren:** 1 heard singing on 21 May at Backbone S.P. (JRC) raises intriguing nesting possibilities.
- Sedge Wren:** First: 25 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).
- Marsh Wren:** First: singles on 15 Apr at State Line M. and Webster Co. (JJD, MPr).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** First: 2 on 24 Mar in Hardin Co. (MPr).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** First: 29 Mar at Grammer Grove (MPr). Last: 25 May in Boone Co. (KJ). Most reported: 10 at Fairfield on 20 Apr (DCP).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** First: 22 Apr in Iowa Co. (CE).
- MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD:** 1 was found keeping company with a female Eastern Bluebird on 1 Apr near Peterson (PE-List, *LAS). It was seen by many until 26 Apr (Birdline).
- Veery:** First: 2 on 10 May at Ledges S.P. (KJ).
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** First: singles on 2 May at Call S.P. and Fairfield (MCK, DCP). Last: 29 May at Call S.P. (MCK). Most reported: 5 on 19 May at Call S.P. (MCK).
- Swainson's Thrush:** First: 3 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DKi). Last: 30 May at Ledges S.P. (KJ). Most reported: 33 on 19 May at Call S.P. (MCK).
- Hermit Thrush:** Arrived 7-10 Apr with reports of 17 birds. Late and most reported: 10 on 2 May at Call S.P. (MCK-details). 2 of these Hermits showed characteristics of the Rocky Mountain race *auduboni*.

Wood Thrush: First: 2 May in Johnson Co. (MCD) and singles on 4 May at Grammer Grove and Boone Co. (MPr, KJ).

Varied Thrush: A female reported 10 Apr near Calmar (Birdline).

Gray Catbird: First: 2 May in Hardin Co. (MPr).

Northern Mockingbird: 5 reports of 1 or 2 birds from the southern half of the state.

Brown Thrasher: First: 12 Apr in Jefferson Co. (DKi) and singles on 14 Apr in Johnson and Marshall counties (MCD, MPr).

American Pipit: First: 8 Mar at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Last: 7 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Most reported: 9 on 22 Apr at Sedan Bottoms (TNJ).

Blue-winged Warbler: First: 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua (JLF) and 5 on 29 Apr at Croton Unit (RIC).

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 29 Apr at Cedar Rapids (LSc-List) and at Iowa City (JBP).

Tennessee Warbler: First: 28 Apr at Mason City (RGo). Last: 28 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). Most reported: 19 in one tree at Spencer on 16 May (LAS).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 22 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua and in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRF-List, RGo).

Nashville Warbler: First: 30 Apr in Des Moines Co. (CRF-List). Last: 24 May at Ledges S.P. (KJ).

Northern Parula: First: 22 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Most reported: 5 on 12 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (CE).

Yellow Warbler: First: 2 on 1 May in Louisa Co. (MCD).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 5 and 6 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH, RGo).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 5 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo). Last: 2 on 31 May at Algona (MCK).

Cape May Warbler: The bird that wintered in Cedar Rapids was last seen 22 Apr (John Halvacek fide THK). Other singles 11 May at Clive (JRC) and 25 May in Boone Co. (KJ).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 2 May in Engebretsen's yard (BE), and 1 singing male on 19 May at Call S.P. (MCK).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 25 Mar in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Last: 3 on 19 May at Algona (MCK). Most reported: 50 at Hawkeye W.A. on 1 May (CE).

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: Singles on 28 Apr in Sioux, Cerro Gordo, and Kossuth counties. Last: 24 May at Ledges S.P. (KJ) and 26 May at Grammer Grove (BPr).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 2 on 28 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Last: 22 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). Most reported: 4 at Dudgeon L. on 16 May (CE).

Yellow-throated Warbler: First: 2 on 15 Apr at L. Macbride (MCD). 1 at Cardinal M. on 8 May was a 1st county record (Bob Chapman Jr. fide DeC).

Prairie Warbler: 1 singing on 19 May at L. Macbride (CE).

Palm Warbler: Migration spanned one month with the first 22 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and the last 22 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Singles reported on 10 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo), 19 May at Call S.P. (MCK), and 20 May in Clayton County (MCK).

Blackpoll Warbler: First: 1 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo). Last: 19 May in Buchanan Co. (MPr). Most reported: 6 at Dudgeon L. on 16 May (CE).

Cerulean Warbler: First: 28 Apr at Sharon Bluffs S.P. (RLC). Most reported: 6 on 6 May at that same location (RLC). Found west of its usual range in Clay, Dickinson, and Cerro Gordo counties.

American Redstart: First: 5 May in Cerro Gordo and Johnson counties (RGo, MCD).

Prothonotary Warbler: Unusual locations: 3 in Warren Co. on 6 May (AMJ), 1 in Ames on 8 May (HZ), 3 in Dallas Co. on 8 May (PHA, RIA). A regular location, but at the NW edge of its range: 1 at Algona on 19 May (MCK).

Worm-eating Warbler: First: 23 Apr at Starr's Cave (CRF-List). 1 in Dallas Co. on 10 and 12 May was outside normal range (PHA, RIA).

Ovenbird: First: 28 Apr at Smith W.A. (MCK).

Northern Waterthrush: First: 25 Apr at Cardinal M. (DeC). Last: 24 May in Boone Co. (KJ).

Louisiana Waterthrush: First: 2 on 5 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (Birdline). Most reported: 5 at Ledges S.P. on 10 May (MPR) and 5 at Croton Unit on 11 May (RIC). 1 was feeding a cowbird at Lacey-Keosauqua on 29 May (PBy-List).

Kentucky Warbler: First: 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua (JLF). Most reported: 3 at Sand Creek W.M.A. and 3 at Sharon Bluffs on 6 May (RIC, RLC) and 6 at Lacey-Keosauqua on 12 May (CE).

Connecticut Warbler: All singles: 15 May in Johnson Co. (CE), 19 May in Buchanan Co. (MPR), 27 May at Grammer Grove (MPR), 28 May at Keutleson W.M.A. (LAS), and 30 May at Cardinal M. (Bob Chapman Jr. fide DeC).

Mourning Warbler: First: 12 May at Lacey-Keosauqua (CE). Last: singles on 31 May in Boone Co. and Clive (KJ, JRC).

Common Yellowthroat: First: 22 Apr in Webster Co. (MPR).

Hooded Warbler: All singles: 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF), 6-7 May at Parker's Woods in Mason City (RGo, PH), 10 May at Ledges S.P. (PHA, RIA), 16 May at Cardinal M. (Bob Chapman Jr. fide DeC), and 16 May at L. Ahquabi (Birdline).

Wilson's Warbler: First: 5 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo). Last: 27 May in Clay Co. (LAS).

Canada Warbler: First: 2 on 11 May at Croton Unit (CE). Last: singles on 29 May at Grammer Grove (MPR) and Lacey-Keosauqua (PBy-List).

Yellow-breasted Chat: First: 5 May at Red Cedar W.M.A. (EHa). Also found in Dallas, Louisa, Johnson, and Van Buren counties.

Summer Tanager: First: 29 Apr At Sand Creek W.M.A. (RIC). Outside usual locations: 1 in the Allen's yard 11 May (PHA, RIA), and 1 on 14 May at Saylorville W.A., also in Polk Co. (AMJ).

Scarlet Tanager: First: 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua (JLF). Most reported: 4 on 16 May at Ledges S.P. (KJ).



Little Blue Heron at Willow Creek, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa on 21 April 2000. Photo by Paul Hertzell.

WESTERN TANAGER: A male on 1 May at Mason City (*RGo).

Spotted Towhee: 1 on 18 Mar in Phil Walsh's yard was the only report (PJW).

Eastern Towhee: First: 29 Mar at Fairfield (DKi). A clean sweep at Walsh's yard with 1 on 23 Apr (PJW). A pair near last summer's location at Smith W.A. on 29 May probably nested (MCK).

Chipping Sparrow: First: 26 Mar in Jim Scheib's yard (JES-List). The next on 10 Apr in Boone Co. (KJ).

Clay-colored Sparrow: First: 23 Apr at Marion (JaD-List). A few singles reported until 13 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH), but I didn't see any this spring.

Field Sparrow: First: 29 Mar in Boone and Polk counties (KJ, PHA, RIA) and 30 Mar in Johnson Co. (MCD).

Vesper Sparrow: First: 26 Mar in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Lark Sparrow: First: 21 Apr in Appanoose and Louisa counties (RLC, CE).

Savannah Sparrow: First: 2 Apr in Johnson Co. (MCD).

Grasshopper Sparrow: First: 27 Apr in Johnson Co. (MCD) and 3 in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo).

Henslow's Sparrow: All: 22 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and Van Buren Co. (PBy-List), 2 on 8 May in Iowa Co. (CE), 1 or 2 found in Cerro Gordo Co. on 9 and 15 May (RGo, PH), 2-5 at Hayden Prairie 16-29 May (DeC), and considered "numerous" at Kellerton W.A. on 28 May (JSi).

Le Conte's Sparrow: First: 2 Apr at Cone M. (MCD). Last: 3 on 16 May at Mason City (CJF). Most reported: 10 on 22 Apr at Ocheyedan W.A. (Birdline).



*White-faced Ibis at Zirbel Slough,
Cerro Gordo County on 4 May
2000. Photo by Paul Hertzell.*

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: All: 5 on 13 May at Union Hills W.M.A. (PH, RGo), singles on 15 May at Cardinal M. (Bob Chapman, Jr. fide DeC), 16 May at Hayden Prairie (Bob Chapman, Jr. fide DeC), and 1 netted on 22 May at Eagle L. Flats (Rob Fletcher fide JJD).

Fox Sparrow: First: 3 Mar in Jefferson Co. (DKi). Most reported: counts of 12 and 13 birds were good, but 54 at Arney's Bend in Marshall Co. on 7 Apr indicates a migration peak (LAS).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Only singles reported 9–27 May.

Swamp Sparrow: Most reported: 32 in Appanoose Co. on 8 Apr (RLC).

White-crowned Sparrow: Most reported: 6 in Poweshiek Co. (CV, RV). Last: 29 May in Allen's yard (PHA, RIA) [record latest].

Dark-eyed Junco: Their departures nicely matching the remaining migration distance, last "Oregon": 28 Mar (MCK), last "Pink-sided": 2 on 11 Apr (MCK), last "Slate-colored": 22 Apr in Sioux Co. (JV).

Lapland Longspur: Most reported: 600 in Johnson Co. on 19 Mar (CE). Last: 30 on 26 Apr at Maynard Reece W.M.A. (MCK).

Smith's Longspur: All: 2 on 27 Mar at Ocheyedan W.A. (LAS), found at Union Hills W.M.A. 13–22 Apr in flocks of 6–75 (CJF, RGo, PH, PBy-List), 20 on 15 Apr and 80 on 21 Apr at Cone M. (CE), 20 at Aldo Leopold W.M.A. on 23 Apr (AIB-List), 20 at Maynard Reece W.M.A. on 26 Apr (MCK), 5 on 26 Apr and 12 on 30 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Snow Bunting: No reports.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: First: 21 Apr at Iowa City (JPB) and 22 Apr in Appanoose Co. (TNJ, RLC).

Blue Grosbeak: All: 12 May near Unionville (Wcu-List), 18–22 May near Boone (KJ), 20 May in Fremont Co. (PHA, RIA), and 2 on 31 May at Iowa City (JPB-details).

Indigo Bunting: First: 5 May in Johnson Co. (MCD) and 6 May in Warren Co. (AMJ).

Dickcissel: First: 1 May in Boone Co. (KJ).

Bobolink: First: 1 May in Boone Co. (KJ). Considered "abundant almost beyond belief" at Kellerton W.A. on 28 May (JSi).

Eastern Meadowlark: First: Singing birds on 4 Mar at Saylorsville Res. (PBy-List) and 9 Mar in Johnson Co. (MCD).

Western Meadowlark: First: Singing 5 Mar at Harrier M. (KJ).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: First: 8 Apr at Doon (JV) and 3 on 9 Apr at Errington M. (PJW). 2 on 21 May at Aldo Leopold W.M.A. were thought to be new for the area (JJD).

Rusty Blackbird: First: 6 on 5 Mar at Cardinal M. (DeC). Last: 21 Apr at Cone M. (CE). Most reported: 60 on 19 Mar at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Brewer's Blackbird: 2 at Bjorkboda M. on 22 Apr was the only report (MPR-details).

Great-tailed Grackle: Most reported: 9 near Carroll on 22 Apr (RTh-List)

Orchard Oriole: First: 6 May in Jefferson Co. (DKi). No reports north of Story Co.

Baltimore Oriole: First: Singles 30 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ) and at Algona (Nick Scholer fide MCK). Most reported: 18 on 13 May in Ann Johnson's yard (AMJ).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: The bird that wintered at the Leete's in Elk Horn was last seen 25 Mar.

Purple Finch: Migration peaked 15–21 Apr with 4 reports of 20–27 birds. No May reports.

White-winged Crossbill: A flock of about 20 birds was reported in Davenport from mid-Mar to at least 16 Apr (ChA-List, Caldwell-Birdline)

Common Redpoll: No reports.

Pine Siskin: Only a few singles reported. Last: 18 May in Boone Co. (KJ).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: 2 Apr and 21 May at Cone M. and Indian Slough along the Iowa R. (MCD).

COMMENT

First, I thank both Tom Kent, my predecessor as spring field reports compiler, and Jim Dinsmore, previous editor of Iowa Bird Life. Without their contributions to the study of wild birds in Iowa, and their guidance and encouragement to me personally, I wouldn't be qualified to do this job. I owe much of what I think I know about Iowa birds to them. I also want to thank the many contributors to the field reports, past and present. I read each season's report from beginning to end, and I always enjoy seeing the jigsaw puzzle picture of Iowa birds that emerges. Without contributors sending in field reports, there would be no big picture.

A total of 34 reports and 2 extra documentations were sent to me for compilation. Two more reports arrived too late for inclusion in North American Birds, but I did add highlights to this report. I tried using new sources of bird sighting reports this spring in an effort to broaden our sampling of spring migration in Iowa, with mixed success. The growth of our IABirds listserv on the Internet this past year is an indication of changing times in our birding community, instantly bringing into our homes the birds and birding experiences of members from around the state. I was, however, a bit surprised to find birders posting to IABirds and not submitting field reports. Even though bird sightings gleaned from IABirds and the IOU Birdline can be found in this report, those reports are not subject to any review process other than my own. Lacking any documentation, I was unable to include four sightings of three Casual species and one sighting of an Accidental in this report. Please keep in mind that documentations of rare and unusual birds are always welcomed by the Records Committee, even those records from past seasons! Please contact me with any corrections, comments, or suggestions.

CONTRIBUTORS (* = documentation only)

PHA	Pam Allen	West Des Moines
RIA	Reid Allen	West Des Moines
ChA	Charles Arterburn	Davenport
AlB	Al Brown	Cedar Falls
PBy	Paul Bystrak	Huxley
DeC	Dennis Carter	Decorah
RIC	Bob Cecil	Des Moines
JRC	Jane Clark	Clive
Wcu	William Cummings	Centerville
RLC	Ray Cummins	Centerville
JJD	Jim Dinsmore	Ames

MCD	Mike Dooley	Iowa City
CE	Chris Edwards	North Liberty
BE	Berry Engebretsen	Urbandale
PE	Pete Erzen	Ida Grove
CJF	Carolyn Fischer	Mason City
CRF	Chuck Fuller	Burlington
JLF	Jim Fuller	Iowa City
RGo	Rita Goranson	Mason City
EHa	Eric Haley	Iowa City
DCH	Doug Harr	Larchwood
PH	Paul Hertzell	Mason City
BFH	Bill Huser	South Sioux City, NE
AMJ	Ann Johnson	Norwalk
TNJ	Tom Johnson	Mystic
JJ	Jack Jones	Sioux City
KJ	Karl Jungbluth	Boone
MCK	Matt Kenne	Algona
THK	Tom Kent	Iowa City
DKi	Dave Killman	Fairfield
BL	Bob Livermore	Sioux City
FLM*	Francis Moore	Waterloo
BKP	Babs Padelford	Bellevue, NE
LJP	Loren Padelford	Bellevue, NE
MAP	Marietta Petersen	Walnut
DCP	Diane Porter	Fairfield
BPr	Beth Proescholdt	Liscomb
MPr	Mark Proescholdt	Liscomb
JR	John Ruttenbeck	Burlington
LSc	Linda Scarth	Cedar Rapids
JES	Jim Scheib	Iowa City
LAS	Lee Schoenewe	Spencer
JSi	Jim Sinclair	Indianola
JSm*	John Smeltzer Jr.	Fort Collins, CO
JSn	John Snyder	Ames
TS	Tom Stone	Waterloo
Eth	Ed Thelen	Spirit L.
RTh	Rob Thelen	Carroll
JV	John Van Dyk	Sioux Center
CV	Connie Van Ersvelde	Grinnell
RV	Robert Van Ersvelde	Grinnell
PJW	Phil Walsh	Des Moines
CLW	Charles Winterwood	Dubuque
HZ	Hank Zaletel	Nevada

709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511 (meekeckkk@rconnect.com)

Report of the Records Committee for 1999

Thomas H. Kent

The Records Committee reviewed 34 records from 1999. Of these, 28 were accepted and 6 were not. Yellow-billed Loon, Arctic Tern, and Lesser Goldfinch were added to the state list. One of the not-accepted records was identified correctly but was not considered established yet (Greater Prairie-Chicken).

Committee members for 1999 with years in which their terms expire were W. Ross Silcock (2000), Chris Edwards (2001), James L. Fuller (2002), Matthew C. Kenne (2003), Robert I. Cecil (2004), Jim Sinclair (2005), and Thomas H. Kent (secretary, appointed by the committee). The secretary resigned, and in 1999 the committee appointed Ann M. Johnson as secretary beginning in the year 2000 and nominated Thomas H. Kent to fill the expiring term of W. Ross Silcock in 2000.

The four-digit number (year and sequence number) assigned to each record reviewed by the Records Committee is included for future reference. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = documentation) and NA = Not Accepted. In order to be Accepted, a record must receive 7 votes on the initial review or 6 votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R indicate that physical evidence supports the identification, and records are subclassified based on a majority vote. References to IBL are the page of the field reports in Iowa Bird Life where the record is cited. P-numbers refer to the IOU Photo File entry number. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details. An * indicates a previously uncited documentation.

1999 RECORDS ACCEPTED

Yellow-billed Loon: 18 Apr at Clear L. in Cerro Gordo Co. (99-04, IBL 69:91) and 2-21 Dec at Little Wall L. in Hamilton Co. moving to Hallett's Quarry in Story Co. (99-30, P-0628, IBL 70:91).

Clark's Grebe: 21-25 May at Blue L. in Monona Co. (99-05, IBL 69:92).

Brown Pelican: 22-29 Sep at Saylorsville Res. in Polk Co. (99-24, IBL 70:33).

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Early Apr to 5 May north of Columbus Junction in Louisa Co. (99-06, IBL 69:92, Kent 1999).

Garganey: 2-12 Apr at Forney L. in Fremont Co. (99-07, P-0620 [see IBL 70:48], P-0623, P-0624, IBL 69:93, Schmid 2000).

Ferruginous Hawk: 5 Dec at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (99-32, IBL 70:95).

Whooping Crane: 9–12 Apr near De Soto N.W.R. in Harrison Co. (99–11, P-0621, cover photo *IBL* 69:4], *IBL* 69:95, Sheets and Dinsmore 1999) and 9–12 Apr near Essex in Page Co. (99–12, *IBL* 69:95).

Black-necked Stilt: 4 May at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (99–13, *IBL* 69:94, J. Dinsmore 1999).

Red Knot: 4 Sep at Horseshoe Bend in Louisa Co. (99–25, *IBL* 70:36).

Jaeger species: 24 Nov at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (99–31, *Mark Orsag).

Black-headed Gull: 10 Jul at the County landfill in Dickinson Co. (99–17, *IBL* 69:127) and 1 Oct to 13 Nov at Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. (99–26, P-0629, P-0630, P-0635, [see also *IBL* 70:38], *IBL* 70:37).

Arctic Tern: 18, 20 Aug at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. (99–19, P-0626 [see *IBL* 69:134], *IBL* 70:38, S. Dinsmore 1999) and 19 Aug at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. (99–20, *IBL* 70:38, S. Dinsmore 1999).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 6 Jan at Grinnell in Poweshiek Co. (99–01, 69:69), Jul to Dec at Rutland in Humboldt Co. (99–34, P-0636, *IBL* 70:96), 18 Aug at Ankeny in Polk Co. (99–21, *IBL* 70:38), and 20 Aug to 6 Nov at Mason City in Cerro Gordo Co. (99–33, *IBL* 70:38). The Grinnell birds were first seen in 1997 and remain through 1999.

White-winged Dove: 20–21 May at Waukee in Dallas Co. (99–14, *IBL* 69:95).

Black-billed Magpie: 27 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (99–27, *IBL* 70:39) and 9 Oct at Broken Kettle Grasslands in Plymouth Co. (99–28, *IBL* 70:39).

Mountain Bluebird: 7–21 Feb at Waterman Creek A. in O'Brien Co. (99–03, P-0612, P-0616, P-0619, *IBL* 69:70).

Bohemian Waxwing: 6 Jan at Grinnell in Poweshiek Co. (99–02, 69:70).

Western Tanager: 10 May near Messervey in Cerro Gordo Co. (95–15, *IBL* 69:98).

Bullock's Oriole: 4 Nov through Dec at Elkhorn in Sibley Co. (99–29, P-0633, P-0634 [see *IBL* 70:43], *IBL* 70:43).

Lesser Goldfinch: 5 Aug at Rockford in Floyd Co. (99–23, P-0627, *IBL* 70:43).

1999 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Barrow's Goldeneye: The bird had a yellow bill, but head shape was not described (99–08, *IBL* 69:93). Female Common Goldeneyes sometimes have yellow bills.

Northern Goshawk: A naked eye view on a bird at 100 yards and one month out of season was not accepted on a split vote (99–09, *IBL* 69:93).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: There was no question about the identification of the birds at Kellerton W.A. in Ringgold Co. on 18 Apr (99–10, *IBL* 69:93). Although the committee had previously discussed whether to consider the population of this species in south-central Iowa as established, this is the first record that has been circulated for a vote. Populations have fluctuated since the second attempt to introduce this species began in 1987. It was decided on a split vote to err on the conservative side and wait to see how the population fares in coming years.

Ruff: A bird purported to be a juvenile was seen at a date considered to be too early for a bird in that plumage (99–18). A lingering immature bird in first basic plumage is possible, but the details were not considered diagnostic by several members.

Lark Bunting: A female was briefly seen and not accepted on a split vote.

Black-headed Grosbeak: The committee has never accepted a report of a female of this species, and this time was no exception (99–22). Some of the information on this bird was recalled sometime after the sighting.

LITERATURE CITED

- Dinsmore, J. J. 1999. Black-necked Stilt in Boone County. *Iowa Bird Life* 69:131.
- Dinsmore, S. J. and J. J. Dinsmore. 1999. Arctic Terns at Saylorville Reservoir: A first for Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 69:133–135.
- Kent, T. H. 1999. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in Louisa County. *Iowa Bird Life* 69:131–132.
- Schmid, R. 2000. Garganey at Forney Lake. *Iowa Bird Life* 70:47–48.
- Sheets, M. L., and J. J. Dinsmore. 1999. Whooping Cranes in Harrison County. *Iowa Bird Life* 69:132–133.

211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246 (thkent@home.com)

In Memoriam: Jim Rod

Hank Zaletel

Jim Rod, educator and advocate, who led a life in the exaltation and defense of nature, died 4 July 1998 in New York City from cancer. Jim was born 6 November 1944 in Ames, Iowa to Paul and Pauline Rod. He attended Ames schools and graduated from the high school in 1962.

Following his graduation, he served in the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne during the Vietnam War from 1967–69 and was awarded the Bronze Star and several Air Medals.

Returning to Ames, he enrolled at Iowa State University and studied wildlife biology. During this time, he helped found the Ames Audubon Society. He served as program chair, field trip coordinator, Christmas Bird Count compiler, and as President. From 1971 to 1973 he served as vice president of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. He also served as vice-chair of the Committee to Save the Ledges that was



J. Rod

threatened by the then to be built Saylorville Reservoir.

In 1973, outdoor writer John Madsen recommended to then National Audubon Society President Elvis Stahr that Jim be hired as his personnel assistant. He quit school and moved to the east coast where he completed a B.S. in Journalism from Iona College. In October 1977, he married Dee Hughes, they had one son.

In 1982, he assumed the post of manager and warden of the National Audubon Society's Constitution Marsh Sanctuary on the Hudson River in Garrison, New York.

Mr. Rod's studies of cadmium contamination in the marsh's muskrat population helped prompt the Federal Environmental Protection Agency to order a \$100 million superfund cleanup at a defunct battery factory that abutted the preserve.

In 1998, Jim was awarded Audubon's Golden Egret Award for an employee who through his continuous and consistent extra effort and thoughtfulness furthered Audubon's mission to protect birds, other wildlife and their habitats.

New York's Governor George Pataki, a close friend and neighbor, noted at the memorial service "that there are a lot more high-profile figures in conservation but there was no more knowledgeable or caring a figure than Jim Rod. He taught me an awful lot. Jim was one of the figures in my life who I believe is irreplaceable."

1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201-1126

Book Review

Hope is the Thing with Feathers: A Personal Chronicle of Vanished Birds. Christopher Cokinos. Jeremy P. Tarcher/ Putnam, New York. 2000. 359 pp., hardbound, \$24.95.

James J. Dinsmore

Author Cokinos revisits the path to extinction for six North American species: Carolina Parakeet, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Heath Hen (a race of the Greater Prairie-Chicken), Passenger Pigeon,

Labrador Duck, and Great Auk. All were subject to heavy exploitation and/or habitat loss in the 1800s. Two disappeared in the 1800s, and purported sightings of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker persist today.

For each species, Cokinos outlines events that led to its disappearance. For most of the species, these facts have been presented in detail before; however, Cokinos effectively makes these losses personal. He does this by visiting the site of the last known North American record for each of the six and describing what the area is like today. He also describes the scientists who studied the birds in an attempt to save them (Heath Hen, Ivory-billed Woodpecker) and the people who hunted them (Great Auk, Passenger Pigeon). Of particular interest was the effort Cokinos made to find out who had shot the last known wild Passenger Pigeon. Through some good detective work and a little luck, he is able to tell us much about Press Clay Southworth, a 14-year-old Ohio farm boy who had that unfortunate fate.

There even are a few Iowa ties in the book. Paul Bartsch, who formerly was affiliated with the University of Iowa, is mentioned in the chapter on Carolina Parakeets. More recently, a supposed 1999 sighting of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker was reported to Vernon Wright, a former classmate of mine at Iowa State University. The book is well written and very fascinating. One hopes that by understanding what led to the loss of these species, we might avoid similar losses in the future.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore

The September 1950 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* is a relatively thin, 16-page issue. It is clear that editor Pierce's mailbox had not been stuffed with material to publish in the months preceding the issue. The lead article by Charles Stewart describes his findings on a birding

trip on the Mississippi River in extreme northeastern Iowa in September 1949. An article by Philip DuMont discusses the subspecies issue and advocates that, in most cases, only museum technicians who have access to specimen collections are in a position to identify birds to subspecies. A short article by William Youngworth of Sioux City describes a number of personal experiences with birds including an impressive fall flight of Eastern Kingbirds he observed in 1949. Among the shorter notes, one by Fred Kent describes a Bewick's Wren nesting in a combine in a machine shed near Iowa City. Another by Woodward Brown compares the relative abundance of the two cuckoo species. His records suggest that the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was much more abundant than the Black-billed Cuckoo, similar to the current situation. Finally, a report on the fourth fall IOU meeting, this one at Ledges State Park near Boone in late September, indicates that these informal gatherings were becoming an established event. First begun as a picnic at the home of Fred Pierce, they currently are a regular event.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring 2000 Meeting and Board Meeting

20 May 2000

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting was held at Camp Ewalu in Clayton County, Iowa. The business meeting was called to order by President Mark Proescholdt at 4:00 p.m.

Hank Zaletel moved that minutes of the fall 1999 meeting in *IBL* 69(4) be approved. Dan Dorrance seconded the motion and it passed.

Rita Goranson gave the treasurer's report and stated that a full report would be in the next issue of *IBL*. There is a balance of \$11,136.35 in the checking account.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Records Committee: Ann Johnson gave the report.

Technology Committee: Ann Johnson gave the report and said there have been 20,000 hits on the website.

Membership Committee: Maridel Jackson reported that she is going off the committee. Carol Berrier will serve a second term, Barbara Bettis is still on the committee, and Galen Berrier will join the committee as a new member. Brochures are not completed yet.

Historical Committee: Hank Zaletel reported that reviews and other materials for the Breeding Bird Atlas from Carol Thompson will be placed in the archives at Iowa State University Library.

Iowa Birdline: Jim Fuller thanked Jim Scheib for managing Iowa Birdline while Fuller was out of state. Fuller thinks that Birdline is still useful even though the Internet has become so popular.

NEW BUSINESS

Hank Zaletel reported that as a result of a recent Des Moines Register article, over 50 education booklets were ordered. Linda Zaletel submitted a proposal for a conference to be held in Tucson, AZ in November.

Ann Barker requested that participants in the Spring Count need to get reports to the county compilers by the end of May.

Mark Proescholdt reported that field report editor, Tom Kent is retiring. Matt Kenne is going to assume responsibility for the spring field reports, which are due by June 3rd. Others responsible for field reports are Jim Dinsmore, summer; Jim Fuller, fall; and Bob Cecil, winter.

Fall 2000 Meeting: The fall meeting will be held September 23 and 24 at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. Lee Shoenewe and Doug Harr of Northern Iowa Prairie Lakes Audubon will be planning the event. A motion and second by Zaletel/Dorrance to approve the site passed.

Spring 2001 Meeting: Bob Cecil has volunteered to coordinate another meeting in Keosauqua for Spring 2001. He hopes to be able to hold it the weekend of May 4-6. A motion and second by Mike Overton/Dorrance to approve the site passed.

Election: The Nominating Committee of Mary Kuhlman, chair, Jim Fuller, and Ann Johnson proposed the following slate of officers and

directors: secretary, Jane Clark; treasurer, Rita Goranson; board of directors (two-year terms), Jim Scheib and Judy Garton. There were no other nominations from the floor. A motion to accept the slate was seconded and passed.

Iowa Bird Life: Mark Proescholdt again thanked Jim Dinsmore for his years of work on *IBL*. Kay Niyo reported that she is pleased with the help she's received so far on *IBL*. She has no backlog of articles, however, and requested submissions for the journal.

OLD BUSINESS

Last fall, the membership voted to make a donation to Kellerton Bird Conservation Area in southwest Iowa. The board met in April and recommended a \$3,000 donation pending the need at Kellerton Bird Conservation Area. Phil Walsh reported that there is a need. Mel Moe, Iowa Department of Natural Resources conservation officer for the Kellerton BCA, could use an all-weather spotting scope for visitors. Dinsmore described the layout of the Kellerton BCA.

Dick Tetrault discussed the potential for insurance and liability for field trips. An option would be that IOU could subsidize field trips to the estimated costs that the leaders would have for such trips. Tetrault suggested that IOU consider subsidizing field trips to circumvent the liability issue.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

Hank Zaletel reported that the IOU display is updated and members are encouraged to use it.

Mark Proescholdt reported that Tom Kent suggested that Jim Dinsmore be presented with honorary membership for his long-standing contributions to IOU. It was moved and seconded by Jackson/Zaletel to present an honorary membership to Jim. The motion passed.

One-year memberships for rare bird hosts were discussed.

Mark Proescholdt said that Danny Akers will be signed up as a sponsored student member.

Jim Fuller thanked Mark Proescholdt for an excellent meeting. At least 93 people were registered.

Paul Zeph provided an update of Iowa Audubon. He is trying to create visibility for Audubon and has been active with the NRCS, developing the Backyard Habitat website and related items. He reported that the Earth Day "Rescue the Prairie" event in the Loess

Hills will be expanded next year across the state. He said that Audubon is being asked more frequently to be involved in policy decisions. He also is being asked to take over some existing programs such as bluebird monitoring. Bluebird monitoring and cavity nesters will be topics at the Fall Audubon Upper Mississippi Conference to be held 15–17 September. Zeph is applying for a REAP grant to develop a basic package for bird education. The cost will be \$10 per packet for a CD, an ID poster, and booklets, which would be distributed to 400 teachers. There also will be workshops for teachers. Zeph asked if IOU would like to be listed as a supporter of the project with a donation of at least \$500.

Charlie Winterwood gave an update on the Mississippi Birding Trail mapping project.

Mark Proescholdt thanked speakers and other helpers.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION BOARD MEETING

The board of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union met at 5:10 P.M., May 20, immediately following the meeting of the membership. Present were Mark Proescholdt (president), Phil Walsh, Tom Johnson, Jim Scheib, Maridel Jackson, Rita Goranson, Jane Clark (secretary), Judy Garton, Kay Niyo, and Mel Moe of the Iowa DNR.

Mel Moe reported that Woodlink and the DNR's nongame staff built a viewing platform at Kellerton BCA for viewing prairie chickens. He had investigated the possibility of a high quality all-weather spotting scope. A noncoin operated scope can be purchased for \$3,100. He thought the scope could be available at the viewing platform from March 1 through mid- to late May, and then taken down for the rest of the year. It was moved and seconded by Jackson/Garton to amend the suggested amount of the contribution to the exact amount required for purchase. The motion passed. Mel Moe will order the handicap-accessible model and will notify Rita Goranson of the total bill. Phil Walsh will write a newsletter article about the donation.

Discussion of Linda Zaletel's proposal to exhibit at the National Association for Interpretation Workshop 2000 in Tucson, AZ was held. She asked for \$200 to be used for meals and mileage. Scheib expressed concern about the workshop being in Tucson and questioned the benefit to Iowa birding education. Tom Johnson made a motion to support the proposal, which died for lack of second.

Judy Garton moved to contribute \$500 to be listed as a sponsoring organization for Paul Zeph's REAP grant project. This amount would be taken out of reserve funds. Tom Johnson seconded the motion and it passed.

The board meeting adjourned 5:30 PM.



MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$20 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$20); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member (without publications) (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$20 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the IOU); and Life (\$500 as single payment or \$125 for each of four years). Members also will receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@uswest.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue, 15 February for the Spring issue, 15 May for the Summer issue, and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. Manuscripts may be submitted on computer disk (preferably Microsoft Word or WordPerfect for PCs) or sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor. Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript if sending a disk. Alternatively, material can be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available through the registrar's office. For order form, send self-addressed envelope to *Iowa Bird Life*, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014.

Field Checklist of Iowa Birds, 1999 Edition: 5 for \$1.50, postpaid, and other IOU materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 S.W. Westview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021 (mpwj@gateway.net). Also available at annual meetings.



OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Mark Proescholdt, President (2001), Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148

Tom Johnson, Vice President, (2001), P.O. Box 1045, Centerville, IA 52544

Jane Clark, Secretary (2000), 9871 Lincoln Avenue, Clive, IA 50325

Rita Goranson, Treasurer (2000), 115 Lakeview Drive, Mason City, IA 50401

Other members of the Board of Directors: **Dan Dorrance** (2000), **Maridel Jackson** (2001), **Curt Nelson** (2001), **James Scheib** (2000), **Phil Walsh** (2001)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Publications: Harold White (chair), Dan Dorrance, Jim Durbin, Ron Muilenburg

Records: Ann M. Johnson (secretary), Robert I. Cecil (2004), Chris Edwards (2001), James L. Fuller (2002), Matthew C. Kenne (2003), Thomas H. Kent (2006), James Sinclair (2005)

Membership: Carol Berrier, Galin Berrier, Barb Bettis, Rita Goranson

Library/Historical: Barb Bettis, Dennis Carter, Sue Spieker, Jan Walters, Hank Zaletel

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

22–24 September 2000, Lakeside Laboratory, Lake Okoboji

Spring 2001, Keosauqua

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the field reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Kayleen A. Niyo, 1531 Stone Brooke Road, Ames, IA 50010). An article describing the reporting process also is available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 3 March (Robert I. Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311, wewarb@aol.com)

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 3 June (Matthew C. Kenne, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511, meeckeckk@rconnect.com)

Summer (Jun, Jul) — 3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014, oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 3 December (James L. Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, N.E., Iowa City, IA 52240, james-fuller@uiowa.edu)



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions, write Stephen J. Dinsmore, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521 (dinsmore@lamar.colostate.edu).

IOWA BIRDLINE: (319) 338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

IOU HOMEPAGE: <http://www.iowabirds.org>

I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@midiowa.net).

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is (402) 292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@uswest.net).



